

ECA Newsletter

February 2022

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ECA Website and Email Restored

As I reported a few days ago, the ECA website and email accounts were temporarily down. I'm happy to report that everything is back to normal. You can again contact me at my usual ECA address (president@edgemoorcitizens.org) or the ECA Board's general email address (eca@edgemoorcitizens.org), rather than using the temporary address I mentioned.

Remember that the website has a lot of neighborhood information, photos of past ECA events, and more. You can check it out [HERE](#).

2022 ECA Dues – Pay Early and Help the Planet

In a few weeks, our annual letter will go out asking you to help support the ECA by paying voluntary dues of \$25 per household. Everyone who lives in the neighborhood is a member of the ECA, but only households that support the ECA receive a copy of the ECA Neighborhood Directory (updated annually and mailed in the late spring), along with access to the online Directory and phone app. In addition, only supporters are eligible to vote in ECA elections, which are held every other October.

However, if you make your dues payment now, you'll stop us from using the paper and other resources to print and deliver a letter. (Not to mention the cost and labor involved.)

Thank you to everyone who supported the ECA last year. Without you, our civic association could not exist. I hope you'll continue your support in 2022. If you're new to the neighborhood or, for whatever reason, did not pay dues last year, I hope you'll support the ECA this year.

The easiest way to pay dues is to visit the ECA website [HERE](#). Click on the Pay Now button to pay by credit card, debit card, or PayPal. That will take you to a secure site to complete the transaction. You'll also find instructions on the website page if you'd rather pay by check or use Venmo. We strongly encourage you to use planet-friendly electronic means of payment.

Please take a few minutes now to make your dues payment. And, don't forget to keep a record of your payment so that when you receive another reminder, you'll know that you've already taken care of it.

Converting Parking Lots to Parks in Downtown Bethesda

A few days ago, I sent a letter to the Montgomery County Executive and the County Council supporting the recommendations of the Bethesda Downtown Plan Implementing Advisory Committee that the County fully fund a project to convert two Montgomery County parking lots near the Farm Women's Market (lots 10 and 24) into parks and move the parking underground. The conversion will be partially funded by the developers of the Farm Women's Market property and the Town of Chevy Chase, but additional county funding is needed for the project. You'll find a copy of my letter at the end of this Newsletter, and you can find more information about the development project [HERE](#).

Spring ECA Members' Meeting

As you may know, the ECA holds open meetings for all members twice each year, usually in April and October. I know it's only February, but April is going to creep up on us quickly. So, if there are any topics or issues that you would like to have addressed at the April meeting, please send your ideas to me by email (president@edgemoorcitizens.org).

At this time, I don't know whether we will be able to have an in-person meeting, or another Zoom meeting. But, feel free to make recommendations for topics to cover and any other suggestions about the meeting.

Active Montgomery Event/Program Registration

[Active Montgomery](#) is the online portal where residents go to register for programs at Montgomery Parks and Montgomery County Recreation, or to reserve a County facility or a field. The County has updated its system to combine the databases for Montgomery County Recreation, Montgomery Parks, and Community Use of Public Facilities. They've also made the reservation process easier to use, with a more robust search tool and better security.

Using the new Active Montgomery website, residents can:

- sign up for classes, events or other activities;
- reserve rooms in schools, libraries and other County facilities;
- reserve picnic areas and sports fields;
- obtain pool passes; and
- much more.

Remember that Spring Program Registration begins February 14 and Summer Camp Registration begins February 22. For more information, go [HERE](#).

Montgomery Count Public Libraries Strategic Plan Update

Speaking of Libraries....

Montgomery County Public Libraries is working on its next Strategic Plan and, and wants public input. Beginning on February, they are holding a series of virtual community conversation sessions during which residents can take part in the conversation about the future of the libraries. Residents can also share their thoughts via an online survey.

To register for one of the virtual community conversations, go [HERE](#). To take the survey, go [HERE](#).

Edgemoor Tip of the Month – Reforest Montgomery

Reforest Montgomery is a project of Montgomery Planning, supported by the Forest Conservation Fund, which offers property owners a variety of incentives to plant trees and forests throughout the county. This includes discounts on native trees and free shade trees. You can find out more [HERE](#). (This is program is separate from, and in addition to, the Department of Environmental Protection's *Tree Montgomery* program, which I mentioned in a prior Tip of the Month. *Tree Montgomery* also provides free shade trees. You can find out more about that program [HERE](#).)

Do you have a tip you'd like to share with your neighbors? Please email me your suggestions [HERE](#).

The ECA Newsletter is a compilation of information relevant to Edgemoor area residents. It is distributed on an occasional basis on the EC-Net email list.

Edgemoor Citizens Association

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www.edgemoorcitizens.org

February 8, 2022

Marc Elrich, County Executive
Office of County Executive
Executive Office Building, 2nd floor
101 Monroe St.
Rockville, MD 20850

Montgomery County Council
Stella Werner Council Office Building
100 Maryland Ave.
Rockville, MD 20850

Dear County Executive Elrich and Members of the County Council:

I am the President of the Edgemoor Citizen's Association, a civic organization representing over 500 households in a neighborhood adjacent to downtown Bethesda. I'm writing to offer our wholehearted support for the conversion of Parking Lots 10 and 24 into public parks, as proposed in the Bernstein/EYA Farm Women's Market project. The addition of these public parks would be in keeping with the Bethesda Downtown Plan, has broad community support, and is also supported by the Bethesda Downtown Plan Implementation Advisory Committee.

The proposed parks and the replacement underground parking are to be financed, in part, by Bernstein/EYA and a voluntary contribution from the Town of Chevy Chase. However, County funds will be needed to fully fund the project. We urge you to help make this conversion happen by allocating the additional funds needed for this important project.

While these urgently needed new parks would benefit residents of nearby neighborhoods, they are also crucial to the success of downtown Bethesda. Along Wisconsin Avenue in the area closest to the proposed parks, nearly 2,500 new housing units have recently been built or are on their way along. Many thousands of square feet of office, hotel, and retail space have been added, with more coming. The proposed parks will provide critical public amenities for the many new residents, office workers, and shoppers, and will contribute to the success of the proposed retail space in the refurbished and expanded Farm Women's Market. Within walking distance of Bethesda Row, Metro, and the Purple Line, the parks will be a magnet for people not only from Bethesda but also from other areas of the County and beyond to meet, mingle, and relax.

Please don't miss this opportunity to do something meaningful to meet Montgomery Parks vision of an "...enjoyable, accessible, safe, and green park system that promotes community through shared spaces and treasured experiences," during the period of massive development that is currently underway in downtown Bethesda.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Barnes". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "David" and last name "Barnes" clearly distinguishable.

David Barnes
President, Edgemoor Citizens Association

cc: Casey Anderson
Gerald Cichy
Tina Patterson
Carol Rubin
Partap Verma
Gwen Wright
Stephanie Dickel
Elza Hisel-McCoy
Peter Fosselman